

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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SAL-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 H-02 L-03 CG-00 DOTE-00
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R 151300Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2525
INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

UNCLAS QUITO 8699

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIS, EC
SUBJECT: OBTAINING FISHING LICENSES BY RADIO

REF: STATE 302343

1. POLCOUNSELOR MET WITH DIRGEN FISHING CAPT. WILSON ARROYO AND DIRGEN FISHING LEGAL ADVISOR LAUREANO SANCHEZ IN QUITO DECEMBER 14 TO TIE UP LOOSE ENDS REGARDING GOE PROCEDURES AND US TUNABOAT PRACTICE DURING COMING FISHING SEASON. BOTH SEEMED WELL-DISPOSED TO COOPERATE IN FACILITATING OBTENTION OF LICENSES BY RADIO WITHIN LEGAL RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED UPON THEM.

2. BOTH ARROYO AND SANCHEZ AGREED THAT THE INTERPRETATION GIVEN BY THE TECHNICAL OFFICE OF THE SUBSECRETARY OF FISHING SEVERAL WEEKS AGO (QUITO 7876) WHICH HELD THAT FOREIGN FISHING BOATS COULD NOT ENTER ECUADOREAN CLAIMED WATERS WITHOUT HAVING PREVIOUSLY OBTAINED A LICENSE, WAS TOO STRICT. IF THE BOATS FIRST ASKED PERMISSION TO ENTER TO MAKE A PORT CALL AND THEY DID NOT FISH ON THE WAY, THEY WOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED A PRIORI AS FISHING ILLEGALLY. HOWEVER, BOTH CAUTIONED AGAINST BOATS DOING THIS SINCE THE TEMPTATION TO FISH ON THE WAY INTO PORT WAS GREAT, FISH STORED ABOARD CAUGHT ELSEWHERE MIGHT RAISE QUESTIONS IF THE BOAT WERE STOPPED, AND BECAUSE THE PRACTICE MIGHT LEAD TO MISUNDERSTANDINGS GENERALLY.

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3. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION RAISED RECENTLY BY THE LOCAL

GENERAL MANAGER OF DELMONTE ABOUT THE NECESSITY TO DISPLAY REGISTRY AND TONNAGE DOCUMENTS WHEN APPLYING FOR PERMIT, BOTH AGREED THAT SUCH A REQUIREMENT WAS SUPERFLUOUS IF THE BOAT HAD ALREADY SHOWN THE SAME DOCUMENTS WHEN APPLYING FOR THE MATRICULA (REGISTRY) AT A CONSULATE ABROAD. THEY ASSURED THAT PERMITS COULD BE SOUGHT BY RADIO WITHOUT HAVING TO SHOW FURTHER DOCUMENTATION.

4. SANCHEZ SAID THAT THE PROVISION WHEREBY THE CONSULATE COULD -GUARANTEE" PAYMENT OF THE FEES FOR A LICENSE REQUESTED BY RADIO WAS SOMEWHAT MISLEADING. THE LAW DID NOT ALLOW DIRGEN FISHING TO GRANT PERMITS ON CREDIT, AND THEY COULD ONLY BE ISSUED ONCE PROOF WAS PRESENTED THAT THE FEE (IN CHECK OR CASH) HAD BEEN DEPOSITED WITH THE CENTRAL BANK. AFTER POLCOUNSELOR EXPLAINED OUR ATTEMPTS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS PROVISION BY ENCOURAGING THE US TUNABOATERS AND BANK OF AMERICA TO WORK OUT AN ARRANGEMENT, SANCHEZ OBSERVED THAT IF THE BOATS SOLICITING A LICENSE REQUESTED IT THROUGH THE NAVAL RADIO STATION, IT WOULD BE FORWARDED ON TO AMCONGEN GUAYAQUIL. THE AMCONGEN COULD THEN PASS THE INFORMATION ON TO BANK OF AMERICA. HE ALSO COMMENTED THAT CONGEN COULD BE BYPASSED ALTOGETHER IF BOAT COMMUNICATED DIRECTLY IN SOME WAY WITH BANK OF AMERICA.

5. SANCHEZ AND ARROYO AGREED THAT A BOAT WHICH HAD PREVIOUSLY FISHED UNDER A LICENSE, BUT WHICH HAD NOT SECURED A MATRICULA FOR THE CURRENT YEAR COULD OBTAIN BOTH BY RADIO SINCE THE IDENTIFYING DOCUMENTS WOULD PRESUMABLY BE ON FILE IN GUAYAQUIL. A BOAT WHICH HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED DOCUMENTS WOULD HAVE TO COME INTO PORT TO PRESENT THE DOCUMENTS BEFORE OBTAINING A LICENSE.

6. WE ARE PREPARED TO ASSIST BANK OF AMERICA IN PUTTING THE PACKAGE TOGETHER PER REFTEL.
BLOOMFIELD

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